

## **Addendum to the Iron Confederacy Ambassador Report, Winter Solstice 385YE**

Information regarding the auction of Emperor Barabbas' fleet has not been overflowing. It seems that there is a good chance of some of the vessels being partially intact. The Barabbine Fleet was the finest the Empire has ever constructed, and the insights, historical and otherwise, that could be gained from a detailed study of its construction are hard to estimate but likely to be significant. In addition, the fleet sank with several artifacts and items of historical interest in the company of its crews: there is a possibility that they could be recovered. It's also possible that the weirwood out of which the fleet is constructed is intact, though it is likely to be heavily weathered by time: it's hard to say if it will be practically exploitable and if so to what degree.

On the matter of the attendees, Iron Confederacy diplomatic contacts have let slip that there is some Asavean interest, but curiously this is *not* expected to have military implications (it seems the Confederacy want to stress they are not getting involved in the Asavean-Imperial conflict at this time). Rather, the Asavean interest is of a religious nature, though no further details are known. In addition, there is some interest from within the Confederacy. Baron de Bestel, an ambitious vassal of Duke du Moi of the territory of Shavronne (directly to the south of Arbonne) has expressed his intention to bid: he is not expected to have a serious chance of winning, but it is true that the Baron's star is rapidly rising in the complicated feudal politics of the Confederacy, and it is possible too that he is a stalking horse for other interests in the non-coastal hinterlands. It is certain the Salt Lords will also send an invited delegation - though obviously there are clear political implications of selling either the Empire or the Grendel naval resources at this time, the Duke of Arbonne can hardly ignore the Empire's interest and that mean the Grendel's nominal claim on the bay must also grudgingly be respected.